

Holy Cross Ranger District
24747 US Hwy 24
P.O. Box 190
Minturn, CO 81645
(970) 827- 5715 - Voice
(970) 827-9343 - Fax



United States Department of Agriculture



BIKING

NORTH TRAIL #1896 -
RED SANDSTONE TO SON OF MIDDLE CREEK

Length: 3.9 miles (one way)

Difficulty: Moderate

Beginning Elevation: 8,254 ft.

Elevation Gain: +1113 ft. - 1163 ft. = -50 ft.

Trail Use: High

Open To: Hiking, Biking, Horseback

Ending Elevation: 8,204 ft.

USGS Map(s): Vail West, Vail East

Access from Vail: From Exit 176 for Vail, travel west about 1 mile on the North Frontage Road to Red Sandstone Road. Turn right onto Red Sandstone Road and proceed for 1.3 miles to a gate and the second of two intersections with the North Trail. This is the trailhead on the right.

Trail Highlights: Follow switchbacks as you climb steadily for about 2.3 miles to an intersection with the Son of Middle Creek Trail #2136. Views from here are excellent as this is one of the two highest points on the entire length of the North Trail. Stay right here and descend the last 1.6 miles of the North Trail to the Spraddle Creek Road on the north side of the I-70 Exit 176 for Vail.

Important Information: The North Trail is closed from April 15 to June 15 for elk calving season and for soil protection and erosion controls from seasonal runoff.

ETHICS/REGULATIONS: Mountain biking provides the opportunity to “get away from it all.” Careless operation of your bike can cause damage and may result in closing of areas to mountain bike enthusiasts. Respect the environment and other trail users. By using common sense and common courtesy, what is available today will be here to enjoy tomorrow:

- * **Always stay on designated roads and trails;** off-trail riding is not permitted on the White River National Forest.
- * Obtain a map of the area you wish to explore and determine which areas are open for use.
- * Avoid trails that are obviously wet and muddy to avoid trail damage.
- * When descending, apply enough brake to maintain control, but avoid locking your bike's wheels, which can start a rut, leading to erosion.
- * Cross streams at fording points only.
- * Wilderness areas are managed to maintain their primitive character and to provide opportunities for solitude. These designated areas are solely for non-mechanized travel—access is restricted to foot and horseback only. Sorry, no OHVs or bicycles.
- * For tips on techniques and responsible recreation, visit www.treadlightly.org.

PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT!! TREAD LIGHTLY!!

This map is intended for use as a general guide only, not for actual land navigation. The White River National Forest strongly suggests purchasing a topographic map and compass prior to your trip.

